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THE HABITAT OF THE SLENDER CLIFF-BRAKE. — In the last two numbers of *The Fern Bulletin*, reports have been published of the occurrence of the slender cliff-brake [*Cryptogramma Stelleri* (S. G. Gmel.) Prantl, *Pellaea gracilis* (Michx.) Beddome] on sandstone rocks, and the editor comments that it seems not to have been collected previously from other than limestone rocks. I think that it will be found that this fern grows not infrequently on other than limestone formations here in the East. The most luxuriant and abundant growth that I have ever seen was in Au Sable Chasm, New York, where it is found on a strongly siliceous sandstone with no limestone in the vicinity. There are at least two stations for this fern in the region of Mount Mansfield, Vermont, where the rocks are almost entirely gneissoid in character. In 1896 I found it in Nebraska Notch, and last year Mr. W. R. Davis, of Boston, collected it on Sterling Mountain. At St. Johnsbury it grows on a mica-schist formation far removed from limestone; the rock is considerably eroded, and more soil surrounds the plants than at any other station known to me. In August I collected this fern also on mica schist in Quechee Gulf, a remarkable gorge in the town of Hartford, Vermont, which is perhaps most noteworthy from a botanical standpoint for producing *Woodsia glabella* and *W. alpina* at the elevation of no more than four hundred feet above sea level.

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT.

TRACY E. HAZEN.

NEWS ITEMS

The International Conference on Plant Breeding and Hybridization held at New York from September 30 to October 2, brought to the city a large number of botanists and horticulturists. Among the distinguished foreigners present were Mr. W. Bateson from Cambridge, England; Daniel Morris, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the British Colonies at Barbadoes; Hon. William Fawcett, Director of the government plantations in Jamaica; and Mr. George Nicholson, curator of Kew Gardens, England. Papers were presented by Professor L. H. Bailey, O. F. Cook, W. M. Hays, S. A. Beach, T. V. Munson, William Saunders, and others; the program was especially interesting and provoked much discussion of the mutation theory.